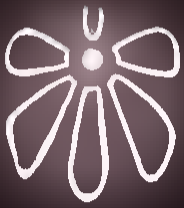
UNDER THE AEGIS

BY VIMEODIEE

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE WIELDER SYMBOL IS WHAT IT IS?

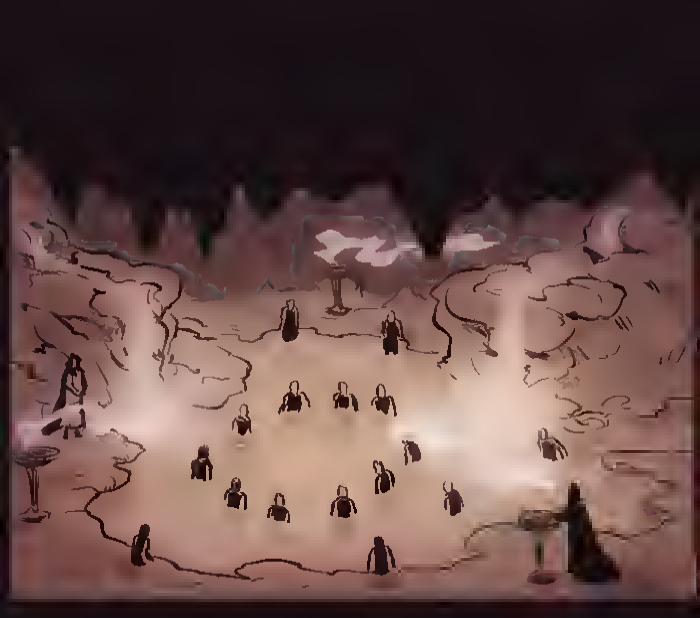


A THOUSAND YEARS AGO. MY ANCESTORS COLLABORATED CLOSELY WITH THE LEADERS OF EACH RACE FOR THE PROMISE OF PEACE.

OUR POWER COMES FROM THE ENERGY THAT
FLOWS THROUGH ALL LIVING THINGS

WE TRAIN TO FEEL IT, MANIPULATE IT BUT OUR REACH IS SMALL

OUR PRIESTS WOULD HAVE SPENT WEEKS ACCUMULATING ENOUGH FOR A LARGE RITUAL



WHEN THE TIME CAME, MAGEIAN PRIESTS PREPARED SACRED GROUND FOR THE LEADERS OF THE RACES AND PERFORMED THE RITUAL WITH THEM.

SEVEN OBJECTS WERE INFUSED WITH THE ENERGY PAINSTAKINGLY GATHERED BY THE PRIESTS AND SEALED

THE SEVEN LEADERS WERE MARKED AS SOLE WIELDERS OF THESE OBJECTS AND OF THE POWER HELD INSIDE THEM.

BUT THE RITUAL SEVERELY DEBILITATED MY ANCESTORS. IT KILLED MOST OF THEM.

WE WERE LEFT WITHOUT ELDERS.

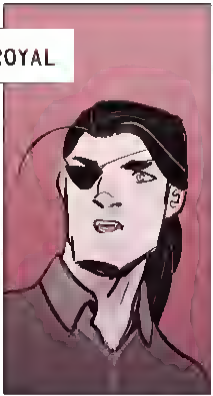
AND THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY VICTIMS

THE LAND ABOVE THE SACRED GROUND WAS A NATURAL HABITAT FOR BASILEIAN BUTTERFLIES

AFTER THE RITUAL WAS COMPLETED, THE PLACE WAS LITTERED WITH HUNDREDS OF THEM...

...ALL DRAINED.

THE BASILEIAN ROYAL



WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS

HAVING THAT MUCH CONTROL OVER ENERGY WHY DIDN'T THE MAGEIANS CHOOSE A WIELDER OF THEIR OWN?

WOULDN'T THAT HAVE MADE THEM ALL STRONGER?

TO KEEP SO MUCH POWER WITHIN OURSELVES IS DANGEROUS. MY ANCESTORS DIDN'T WANT TO ENTRUST ANY ONE PERSON WITH THE BURDEN OR THE TEMPTATION OF THIS POWER.

IT WAS ONLY EVER MEANT TO BE SHARED

AMONG THE SEVEN WIELDERS?

AMONG EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD AT LEAST THAT WAS THE INTENTION

THE SECOND PART OF THE RITUAL
YES. UNLESS YOU FIND YOUR WEAPON, ITS POWER WILL REMAIN BLOCKED. AND YOU'LL NEED TO RETURN TO THE SITE OF THE FIRST RITUAL.
EVEN THOUGH A THOUSAND YEARS HAVE PASSED IT SHOULD STILL BEAR THE PREPARATIONS MY ANCESTORS MADE

...BEFORE THE WIELDERS DIED?

WHAT HAPPENED IS STILL UNCLEAR... SO FEW OF MY ANCESTORS SURVIVED THE FIRST RITUAL AND THE ORAL ACCOUNTS HAVE SUFFERED CHANGE OVER TIME.

THE DEATHS OF THE WIELDERS CAUSED A TERRIBLE RIFT BETWEEN MY PEOPLE

BLAME WAS SHIFTED FROM PERSON TO PERSON...

ACCUSATIONS OF TREACHERY ABOUNDED.

UNTIL FINALLY, A FEW THREW DOWN THEIR SACRED HOODS

THEY WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

THE BASILEIANS FELT THAT THE BLAME SETTLED NICELY ON MAGEIAN SHOULDERS AND SET OUT IN A SEETHING MOB...

MY PEOPLE ONCE INHABITED WHAT IS NOW BASILEIAN TERRITORY, SO THEY HAD LITTLE WARNING.

THOSE WHO WEREN'T SLAUGHTERED FLED AND HID UNTIL THE NAME 'MAGEIAN' WAS FORGOTTEN.

MAN...THAT'S PRETTY ROUGH.

I...TAKE BACK ALL THE MEAN THINGS I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU GUYS EARLIER.

YOU SHOULD. YOUR PRECIOUS FIRST WIELDERS ARE THE ONES YOU NEED TO BLAME FOR ALL OF THIS.

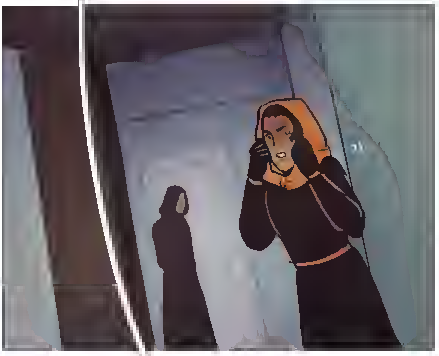
DUDE, WHAT THE HELL'S YOUR PROBLEM? WE DIDN'T *ASK* TO BE WIELDERS--

FORGIVE MY ACOLYTE. HE'S JUST AS EAGER TO LEAVE AS I AM.

YOU'RE LEAVING? BUT THE SECOND PART OF THE RITUAL AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP US DO IT?

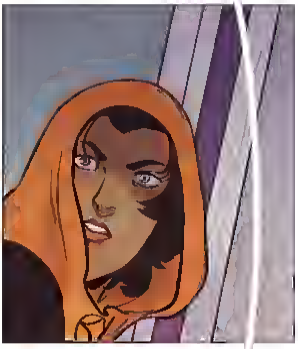
MY ANCESTORS GAVE THE WIELDERS THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO COMPLETE IT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

HOPEFULLY THEY WERE SMART ENOUGH TO PASS THEM DOWN TO YOU.

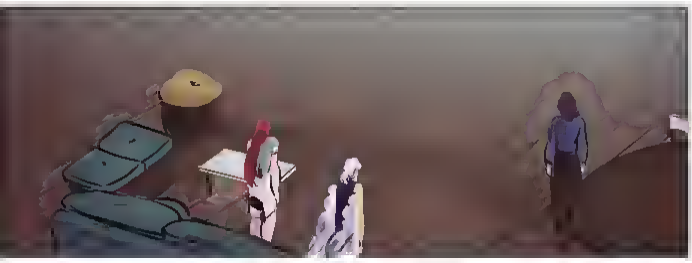


I'VE HELPED YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN. MY PEOPLE DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING.

ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS STOPPING ANY POTENTIAL MAGEIAN TRAITORS.



AND THAT YOU WIELDERS PAY YOUR DEBT TO THE WORLD AND SOON



STAND

GRAB

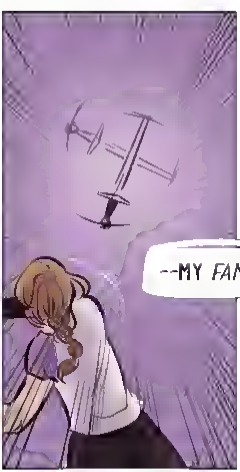
UH, MATT, WHAT'RE YOU--

WHERE'S SHE--?
DORI DO SOMETHING!

MATTIE--!

SKRRR

YOU'VE COST ME--


--MY *FAMILY!*

I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS!!

I DON'T WANT IT--!

I DON'T WANT IT...
I DON'T *WANT* IT!

I KNOW

HEY GUYS...LET'S GO BACK INSIDE, THEY'VE GOT THIS.